

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A capacitor, comprising:
  - a fixed charge plate disposed in a semiconductor substrate;
  - a moveable charge plate disposed above the fixed charge plate; and
  - a stiffener disposed on a center portion of the moveable charge plate.
9. A variable capacitor in a semiconductor device comprising:
  - a movable charge plate disposed in a semiconductor substrate;
  - means for suspending the movable charge plate;
  - means for moving the movable charge plate;
  - a stiffener disposed on a center portion of the movable charge plate.
14. A capacitor comprising:
  - a first fixed charge plate disposed in a semiconductor substrate;
  - a flexible dielectric disposed above the first fixed charge plate;
  - a second charge plate disposed upon the flexible dielectric, wherein the flexible dielectric is interposed between the first fixed charge plate and the second charge plate; and
  - a stiffener disposed upon a center portion of the second charge plate.
17. A microelectromechanical structure variable capacitor comprising:
  - a fixed charge plate disposed upon an elevated semiconductor substrate;
  - a fixed actuator plate disposed upon a lower semiconductor substrate, wherein the fixed

actuator plate is below the fixed charge plate;

a moveable charge plate suspended above the fixed charge plate; and

a stiffener disposed upon a center portion of the moveable charge plate.

Please cancel claim 15, without prejudice.